



# State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

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Vice Chairman  
Vacant

Approved June 27, 2007

## STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, May 23, 2007, at the Claiborne Building Conference Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 1-153 Iowa Room, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Committee Chair Rizwan Ahmed called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The roll was called by Ms. Lorita Ford and a quorum was established.

### Committee Members Present:

Rizwan Ahmed (Chair)

Chief Robert Black  
Maj. Joey Broussard  
Joe Drago  
Heyward Jeffers

Susan Severance  
Col. Eric Sivula  
Col. Henry Whitehorn  
Chief Freddy Drennan  
Robert Merthens  
Lt. Col. Robert Morris

### Representing Agency:

Division of Administration &  
Office of Information Technology  
LA Fire Chief's Association  
Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Dept. of Transportation and Development  
LA Senate Select Committee on  
Homeland Security  
Attorney General's Office/OHSEP  
Dept. of Public Safety/Corrections  
LA State Police  
Police Chief's Association  
LA Commission on Law Enforcement  
LA National Guard

### State/Parish Agency Representatives Present:

Col. Kenneth Hughes  
Sgt. Michael Murphy  
Eric Deroche  
Richard Gremillion  
Clay Henry  
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion  
Donald Milligan  
Thomas Thibeaud

Region 1 Plaquemines OHSEP  
Region 2 East Baton Rouge OHSEP  
Region 3 Assumption/St. James OHSEP  
Region 5 Calcasieu OHSEP  
Region 4 Iberia OHSEP  
Region 6 Rapides OHSEP  
Region 6 Rapides OHSEP  
Region 9 Washington OHSEP

**Guest List**  
**See Appendix A**

**Approval of Minutes**

*On motion of Eric Deroche, seconded by Sonya Wiley-Gremillion, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2007 meeting. Motion carries.*

*On motion of Sonya Wiley-Gremillion, seconded by Eric Sivula, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2007 meeting. Motion carries.*

**Senate Bill 274**

Senator Walter Boasso, District 1 along with his senior staff, Kim Manning addressed the committee regarding Senate Bill 274, which was prompted by his personal experiences during the response to Hurricane Katrina. The Bill would create an Office of Interoperability; establish a Statewide First Responders Interoperability Committee to design and maintain a statewide shared communications system for first responders; and create the Louisiana Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee to design and maintain a Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan. He indicated that presently, there is no entity that pulls all branches of state government together to address interoperable communications. In a diagram of his proposal he illustrated some of the state departments that are not under the umbrella of the Governor's Office. His vision is to bring all branches of government, including the Judiciary, Legislature, and Educational Boards under a common umbrella with other state agencies. As to the First Responders Committee, Senator Boasso wants to empower the groups through their committee representatives, to create a plan for a statewide communications system, which would then be presented to the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee for approval and funding. The executive committee would have no ability to change the plan from the first responders committee. The proposed legislation does not seek to limit the number of sub-committees that can be formed.

Dick Gremillion spoke on behalf of all local emergency directors, and expressed the desire that local representation be preserved, as the number of local users far outweighs the number of state users.

Colonel Whitehorn stated that everyone shared Senator Boasso's vision for interoperability, and everyone agreed to the need to codify the Governor's Executive Order which created the present SIEC. However, he was not sold on the two (2) committee system that is proposed in SB 274.

A question and answer session followed the discussion and the committee was encouraged to share any follow-up questions and/or comments with Ms. Manning via email.

### **MA/Comm radios on Motorola network**

Ken Hughes reported that during an exercise it was discovered that the MA/Comm subscriber unit does not have a system key. Paul Mahen, representing MA/Comm, indicated that there is no requirement for a security key in the P25 standards. He indicated that if security is desired, then encryption is required. Bobby Black stated that there must be the ability to authenticate the radio to the system and the system to the radio.

Further, the Motorola and EF Johnson units have the key, so there is some control over access to the 700 system through the programming of the radio. Raj Iyer of Motorola suggested that there is additional software that can enhance security. Subscriber Access Control (SAC) was also discussed. Rex McDonald believes that it is up to the infrastructure vendors to provide security. In response to the ability to test the security of the system, a time variable challenge and response test was discussed. Rizwan Ahmed summarized that the infrastructure company is supposed to provide the users with an avenue to secure access to the system. Mickey McMorris commented that he is concerned about rogue radios.

*On motion of Eric Deroche, seconded by Mickey McMorris, Motorola is requested to provide, at the next meeting of the SIEC, a recommended solution to the challenge of what possible ways are there for other vendors to gain access to the system in a secure manner and how to eliminate authentication of multiple radios that are using the same ID number. Motion carries without opposition.*

**FCC 700 Mhz Broadband Proposal**

The next item on the agenda was a recommendation to write a letter to Congressman Melancon and Senator Vitter requesting that they write a letter on behalf of Louisiana's application to the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant program being sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

**Infrastructure Assessment and Technology**

There were 12 responses to the Request for Comments (RFC). These will be downloaded to a CD and mailed to assessment and technology committee members and any other interested members for analysis and discussion at the next meeting.

**Funding and Finance**

Heyward Jeffers reported that House Bill 1 contains \$10 million earmarked for interoperability. He briefly discussed Senate Bill 63 which provides for a full-time emergency preparedness director for each parish in the state at approximately \$60k per parish. At present no actions have been taken, the Bill is scheduled for further hearings.

**Policies and Procedures**

Susan Severance requested and was provided the following information for the Cooperative Endeavor Agreements to be executed between SIEC and each of the parish offices of emergency preparedness: The radios purchased with state funds are to be used in accordance with Parish and Regional Communications Plans, with allocation by the local directors to parish entities to enhance command and control communications on the statewide system.

**Planning Committee**

Dick Gremillion reported that plans for Regions 3 and 5 are nearly complete. Regions 4 and 6 are progressing with their plans. A meeting is needed to facilitate the plans in Regions 7 and 8.

Mr. Gremillion suggested that the state's strategy is to get the regional plans accomplished and then analyze the needs on a regional basis. One of the tower sites in Vermillion parish may not be needed. The affected parish should report whether their needs are being met before a decision is made to shift the funding for the tower in question to another purpose. It was suggested that a standard operating procedures needs to be developed for criteria for requests for state funding of local needs.

### **Old Business**

Clay Henry stated that Acadian Ambulance would like to renew its request to be put on the 700 System. The committee further discussed placing commercial first responders on the system.

*On motion of Eric Deroche, seconded by Donald Milligan, and without objection, the SIEC adopted the fee schedule applicable to the 800 system for the new 700 system for private entities that meet the definition of first responders such as Acadian Ambulance.*

*On motion of Eric Deroche, seconded by Freddy Morris, with no opposition, the Coast Guard will be allowed on the 700 mhz statewide system. Motion carries.*

*On motion of Eric Deroche, seconded by Sonya Wiley-Gremillion, with no opposition, Jaya will provide a report to Rizwan Ahmed as to whether it is in the best interest of the State to use a private contractor to write the 700 Mhz Plan. Motion carries.*

Mickey McMorris, on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety reported that one of the mobile towers has been moved to Region 1.

### **New Business**

Houma, Terrebonne and Lafourche received a letter of invitation to apply for a grant. Eric Deroche briefly discussed the details of the grant.

Chief Freddy Drennan informed the Committee that the Police Chief's Association meeting is to be held July 17-19, 2007 in Lake Charles. He suggested that an SIEC meeting be held during that time, similar to the Gonzales meeting held during the Fire Chiefs' Association meeting. Chief Drennan will furnish additional details at a later date.

*On motion of Eric Sivula, seconded by Dick Gremillion, and with no opposition, it was determined that one of the two SIEC July meetings will be held in conjunction with the Police Chiefs' Association Meeting in Lake Charles, LA on July 17, 18, or 19, 2007.*

Joe Drago stated that approximately 41 applications for the SIEC positions had been received. Additional applications have been received by Rizwan's office. Mr. Drago will gather all applications and schedule a time for them to be reviewed.

### **Public Comments**

A former resident of Louisiana, from the audience, who did not identify himself, expressed that he enjoyed sitting in on the meeting and was impressed at the movement the Committee is taking. Being that he travels around the country attending various interoperability classes as well as teaching interoperability classes, he found this SIEC meeting to very informative.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Susan Severance made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mickey McMorris. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

APPENDIX A - GUEST LIST 05/23/07 (page 1)

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 23, 2007 -- 1:30 p.m.  
Claiborne Building Conference Center  
1st Floor, 1-153 Iowa Room  
1201 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

(Guest List)

Name (Print)	Name (Signature)	Representing Agency	E-Mail/Phone
Ronnie Cotton	Ronnie Cotton	Livingston 911 District	rcotton@harc.org
Tom Frick	Tom Frick	DPS	thrick@dps.la.gov
Gary Rogers	Gary Rogers	EMS	g.peters@3gquir.com
JIM SZALAJESKI	James Szalajski	STECH CORP	jims@STECHCORP.COM
JOSEPH LIVINGSTON	Joseph Livingston	OTM	joelivingston@lagov
CHRIS COULON	Chris Coulon	Adams Place	chris.coulon@rclaw.com
Law Wani	Law Wani	w/a-cou	mypaul@tycellectronics.com
Rick Williams	Rick Williams	w/a-cou	Rick.Williams@tycellectronics.com
Richard Silverman	Richard Silverman	DEQ	richard.silverman@deq.gov
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